

Incorporated October 20, 1988

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

# LODI HISTORIAN

SPRING 2003

## EARLY ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

By Ralph Lea & Janice Roth

### St. Anne's Church

The first Catholic Masses held in San Joaquin County were at the residence of Captain Weber in 1849 and later at the residence of Nicolas Den, both in Stockton. Father Francis Vilarasa was saying mass in the area and within a few years the first Catholic Church was erected and named St. Mary's. A priest would travel from Stockton to each mission church once a month to say mass.

The Catholic Church of St. Anne was organized in 1876, by Fr. O'Connor, as a mission church in the town of Woodbridge under St. Mary's Parish in Stockton. The early Catholic residents of the area were mostly Irish. Jim Nolan led the drive for acquiring a church building. The congregation met in private homes until the needed money was raised. They purchased and renovated an old brick public school house for \$1100. Services were held on the second Sunday of each month. Then in 1882 Lockeford became St. Joachim's Parish and oversaw the mission churches in Woodbridge, Linden and Lodi. The priest serving the area lived on the Sheridan Ranch in



1892-1920; St. Anne's, the first Catholic church in Lodi, after it was moved to the south side of Walnut Street.

In the background the German Reformed Church on Lodi Avenue and Pleasant Avenue.

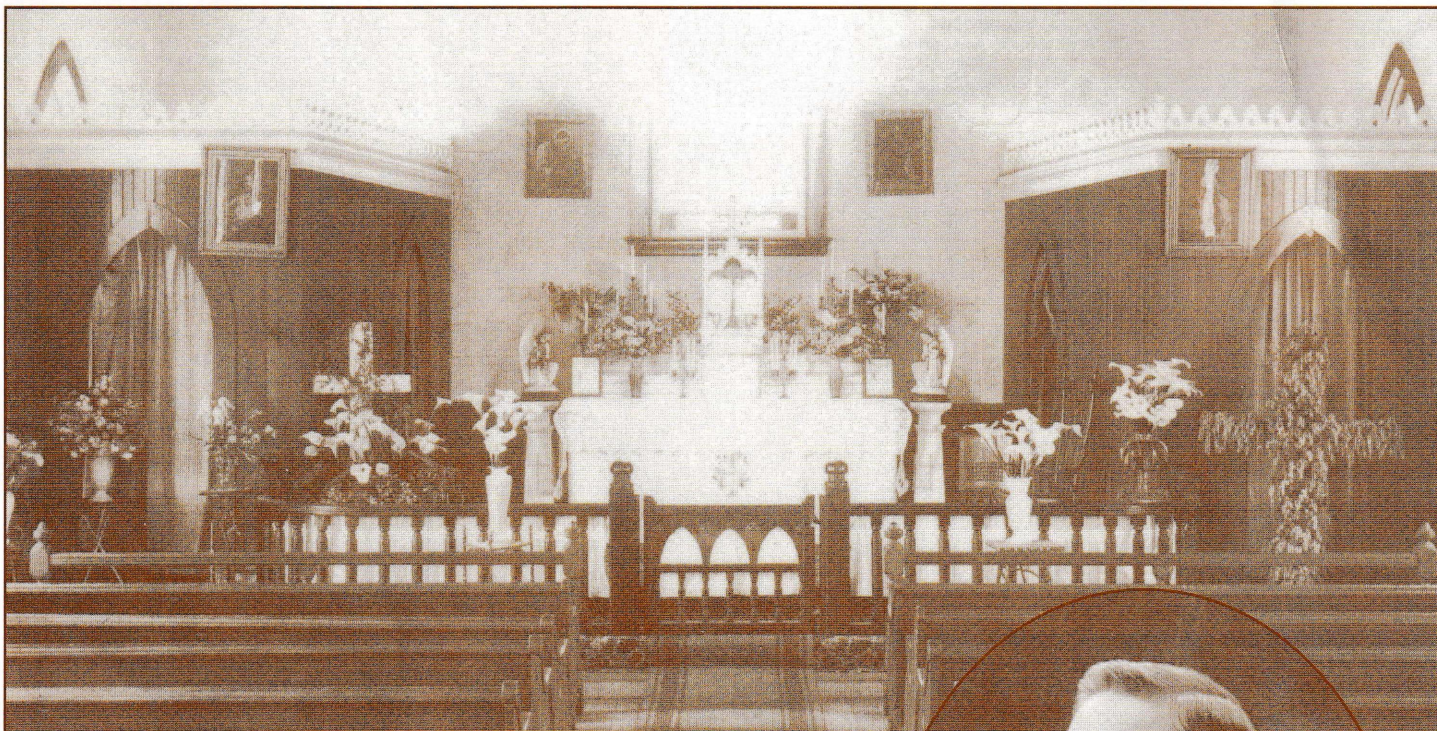
Lockeford. The Woodbridge church was discontinued when the new St. Anne's Church was dedicated in Lodi on May 3, 1891 with Fr. William O' Mahoney as pastor. The bricks from the St. Anne's Church in

Woodbridge were used to erect the first Pierano Building on Sacramento Street in Lodi.

The church in Lodi was located on the northwest corner of Church & Walnut Streets facing east and was a simple wooden structure. A severe winter storm in 1898 blew the church off its foundation. It was repaired and moved to the south side of Walnut Street facing north. The Lodi area was growing. Besides the Irish, there were now many Italians, French, German and Portuguese attending St. Anne's.

In 1904, under Fr. Lacey, a nine room rectory (priests residence) was built in Lodi for \$4,500 on land donated by Ed Hutchinson. This allowed a priest to live in Lodi rather than Lockeford. Lodi became a parish that same year and Lockeford became a mission church of St. Anne's. The first Baptism in St. Anne's after it became a parish was that of two year old Anna Ruth Kelly on September 17, 1904 and the first





▲ The interior of the first Catholic Church in Lodi at Easter in early 1900.

marriage of a Lodi couple was that of Oliver Ing and Augusta Pearson on November 23, 1904. Lodi continued to grow and on July 27, 1913, a new church was dedicated under the leadership of Fr. John Dollard. The old church was then used for a hall until it was sold to the Seventh Day Adventist Church in 1920 and moved to Hilborn and Central Avenue where it is today.

By 1960, fund raising was underway for a larger church under Monsignor Patrick Morris. It was in 1963 that this new church was dedicated by Bishop Hugh Donohoe. The church featured an 80 foot bell tower and an Italian marble communion rail, pulpit and sanctuary.

## Saint Anne's School & Convent

Nancy "Nannie" Haller Carr is considered to be the founder of St. Anne's Academy. She was the daughter of Dr. James R. and Mary Letitia (Haller) Doak of Tazewell, Virginia. Benjamin J. Carr met and married Miss Doak in San Francisco on April 19, 1893. They eventually purchased the Gillingham Ranch near

Terminous. It was a dream of Mrs. Carr to have a Catholic School in Lodi before her death. Nannie was widowed on April 17, 1914. Several years later she sold the ranch to Henry Perrin and moved to South Church St. in Lodi where she lived until her death on March 11, 1926. Her donation of \$30,000 insured the establishment of St. Anne's Academy and Convent.

The first convent was located on the southwest corner of Walnut & Church Streets. The house was built by Mr. McClug, sold to Ambus Eddlemmon and in 1922 sold to St. Anne's to be used by the Dominican Sisters of San Raphael while they taught at St. Anne's Academy. The house was of frame construction, covered with ivy, ornamental shingle siding with a porch along the north side facing the church on Walnut Street. The kitchen, living room, dining room and two small rooms were on the first floor. One room was converted into a chapel and Mr. Thomas Foley constructed and painted a neat



▲ Father Lacy served in Lodi when the Church became a parish, 1904-1910.

little altar and two pedestals. The four bedrooms were on the second floor. More rooms were needed so the second floor was extended to the west by using two support pillars. The ground below was a rose garden. On September 8, 1922 the first residents and faculty were Sr. Jerome, principal and 6th grade teacher, Sr. Victoria, music and 3rd grade teacher, Sr. Flidelis 4th & 5th grade teacher and Sr. John 1st & 2nd grade teacher.



At the same time as the convent was being renovated the school was under construction. The school is of Spanish Renaissance design, open type architecture using Cordova tile on the roof and solid reinforced concrete. Jules Perrin, a devout Catholic and a local cement contractor, did much of the cement work needed on the school and donated the sidewalks. The general contractor was Joseph Chirhart and the architect and designer was J. Donovan, who invented the "universal windows" used throughout the building.

Information found in the school archives describe the school as "containing four classrooms, a domestic science suite, a library, a music teachers suite, a principal's suite and a large assembly hall with a stage and moving picture booth. All the interior

appointments, such as slate blackboards, vitreous china sanitary fixtures, wardrobes ventilated on the corridor side, a modern steam plant with oil burning equipment made the building modern and attractive."

The Memorial Hall (now called Dominican Hall) was built in memory of Miss Olive Chapdelaine and donated to the school by her mother. The total cost of the entire school and hall was \$59,000 plus \$6,000 for furnishings.

Ready or not school started on September 9, 1922. The first days of the first year of St. Anne's School were exciting and somewhat hazardous. Students entered the school by walking on planks. Windows and doors had not been installed and there were not enough desks. 115 students had registered that first year

of which most were boys. The school was officially dedicated by Archbishop Hanna on May 15, 1923.

The nuns taught the 4 R's - reading, writing, arithmetic and religion. In 1925, the first graduates, Marjorie Bawden, Marie Daly, Anna Devine, Kathleen McNally and Carolyn Schroeder, received their diplomas.

A Parents-Teachers Club was formed in the 1929-30 school year. It was known as St. Anne's Club. Mrs. Walmsley was installed as the clubs first president, Sr. Nazareth as vice president, Mrs. Burlington as treasurer and Mrs. Wadman as secretary. Although the club has changed names throughout the years it still provides much needed support for the school and its students and teachers.

In the early years the sisters

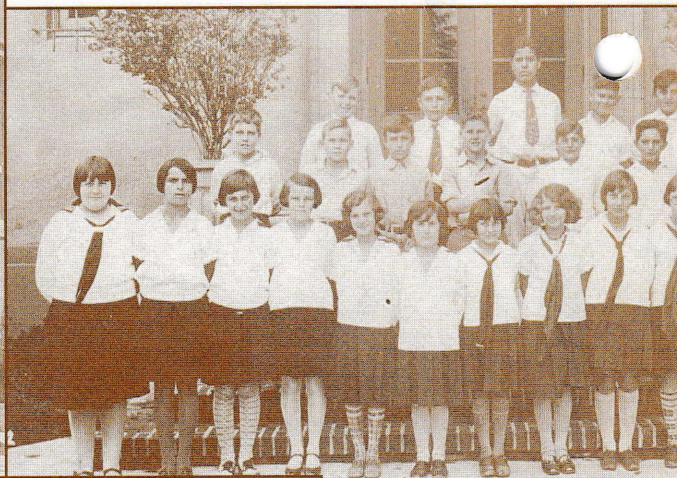


The second St. Anne's Church, circa 1915, on the northwest corner of Walnut and Church Street. Notice the rectory on the far right behind the church. ▲  
Inset: Interior of the 1913-1963 St. Anne's Church.





▲ St. Anne's School in 1922; first convent on far left.



▲ St. Anne's, 5th & 6th grades, 1930



► St. Anne's School student body, 1923-24, exercising to music played on the gramophone.



▲ 1940



▲ St. Anne's, 1923; uniforms now required.

## Principals

S. Jerome  
Sr. Basil  
Sr. Nazarene  
Sr. Helen  
Sr. Amalia  
Sr. Bertha  
Sr. Fedelia  
Sr. Alice  
Sr. Anselma  
Sr. Mary  
Sr. Thaddeus  
Sr. Leonard  
Sr. Lorraine  
Mr. Wall  
Mr. Den





30.



St. Anne's School, 3rd and 4th grades in the 1930-31 school year. ▲



St. Anne's, 1942. Row one: Margaret Felten, Jacqueline Prechecq, Lucy Ferrero, Marguerite Seeley, Doris Funk, Barbara Declusion. Row two: Kenneth Teitgen, Ralph Sala, Father Marchisio, Raymond Scott, Richard McLaughlin. Row three: Alfred Fena, John Pantalone, Phillip Wallior, Eugene Marchand, Thomas Lucas.

Grades 7-8.

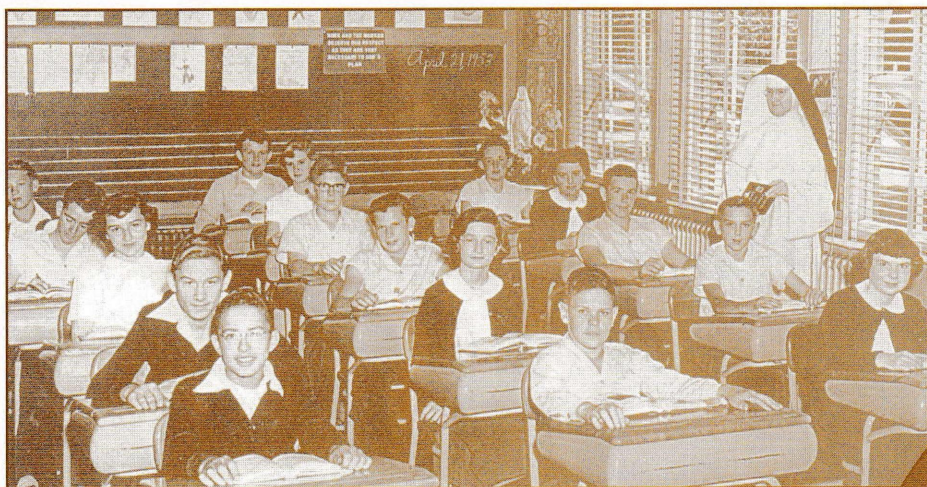
## als

(1922-24)  
 1924-29)  
 th (1929-32 & 1943-49)  
 (1932-33)  
 (1933-35)  
 nd (1935-38)  
 (1938-41)  
 1941-43)  
 n (1949-55)  
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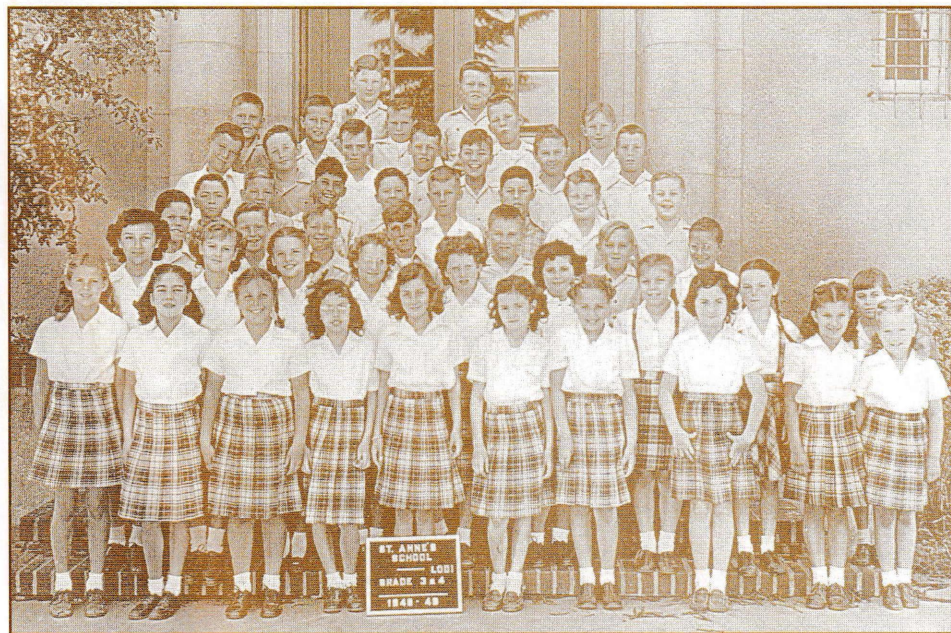


▲ 8th grade at St. Anne's, 1952-53.

would often excuse the 7th and 8th grade boys from class in September so they could sit on the porch of the convent and listen to the world series on the radio. Other activities of note that are fondly remembered by the alumni are the May Pole dance, costume parades, folk dance festivals, picnics a Mickle Grove, Easter Hat parades, the Armistice Day Parade where the girls wore their uniforms and the boys wore their Sunday best, Lodi Lake picnics, Spring festivals, Fall fairs and spaghetti dinners to raise money for Science Camp. All these activities and many more have been a part of St. Anne's School at

one time or another.

In 1951 a new convent was constructed on the northeast corner of Walnut and Pleasant Streets. An open house was held on September 9, 1951. The plaque in the niche between the chapel windows is replica of Fra Angelico's "Madonna of the Stars" which was produced by Fr. L Sciochetti and was donated by the Y.L.I. It was placed at that location so that the entire town would be able to enjoy this piece of art.



▲ St. Anne's grades 3 & 4, 1948-49 school year.

The nuns always had a special place in the hearts of the parishioners. Food was taken to the convent on holidays and other occasions, transportation was provided, and when a water leak was discovered in the wall of the convent, Walter Scott came to the rescue. It was not

uncommon for the parishioners to do many odd jobs for



▲ Halloween at St. Anne's, circa 1945. Sr. Humbert, unknown, Janice and Judy Bettencourt.

the nuns, the school or the church.

The original convent was razed in 1951 making way for the construction of four additional classrooms which began in July of 1953. The alley was turned over to the school and was incorporated into the playground expanding it to 29,00 square feet. Father Patrick J. Morris hired William C. Hoegerman to be the inspector. It was well that Father Morris had a competent person as an inspector for during the excavation for the foundation for the new school wing, a cistern was uncovered. (Cisterns were used to collect and store rainwater for use in the dry season or in the event of a fire.) Mr.



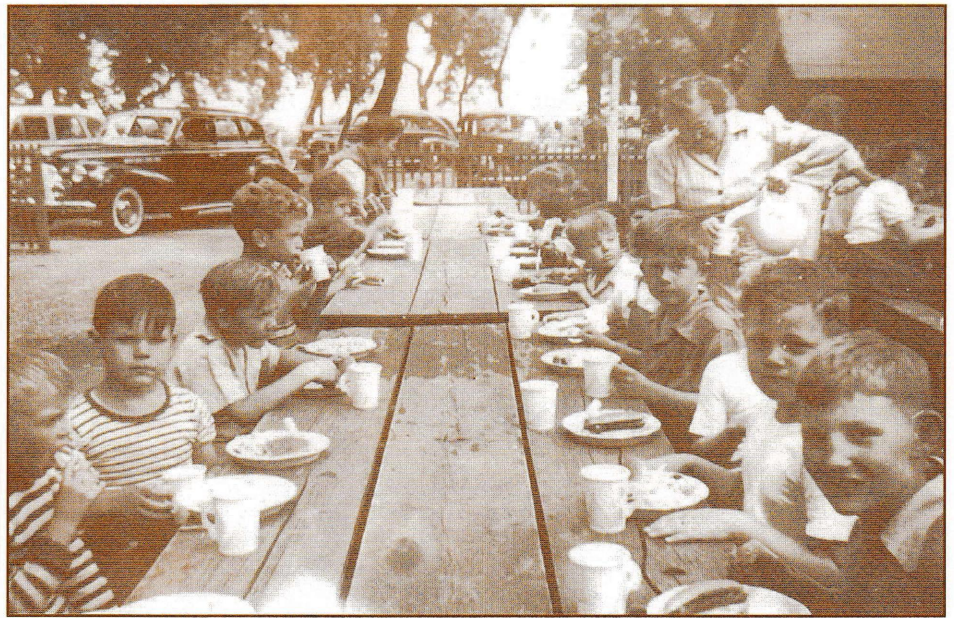
Hoegerman stopped construction in that area and notified the architect and engineer of the discovery. To solve the problem the engineer designed a reenforced concrete truss to span the old cistern. Buckley was the architect and Nomellini the contractor for the addition and remodeling of the older area to make it conform to the new section. At the end of the 1953-54 school year the first students moved into the new section of the school amid painters, plasterers, electricians and carpenters working in the midst of 200 children excited about summer vacation. The \$118,000 renovation and addition was dedicated October 17, 1954.

Later a new St. Anne's Hall was built on the east end of the school for the use of the school and the church and the parishioners.

After 57 years of teaching in Lodi the Dominican Sisters of San Raphael left St. Anne's. Lay principals and teachers followed to keep St. Anne's school operating.

#### Pastors:

Rev. Fr. Kenneally 1882-1883  
 Rev. Fr. John Cassin 1883-1885  
   - built Catholic Church in Linden  
 Rev. Fr. John Leahy 1885-1889  
 Rev. Fr. Wm. O' Mahoney 1890-1892  
   - 1st Catholic Church built in Lodi  
 Rev. Fr. W. P. Quill 1892-1895  
 Rev. Fr. Thomas McNaboe 1895-1896  
 Rev. Fr. J. J. McCue 1896-1904  
   - Lodi becomes a parish-1904  
 Rev. Fr. Owen Lacy 1904-1910  
   - built the first rectory in Lodi-1904  
 Rev. Fr. Eugene Sullivan 1911-1912  
 Rev. Fr. John Dollard 1912-1918  
   - built new church-1913  
 Rev. Fr. Edward Maher 1919-1925  
   - school built-1922  
 Rev. Fr. John Power 1925-1927  
 Rev. Fr. Peter Flynn 1928-1931  
 Rev. Fr. Emmett O'Connor 1931-1933  
 Rev. Fr. Charles Hardeman 1933-1941  
 Rev. Fr. John Marchisio 1941-1947  
 Rev. Fr. Patrick Morris 1947-1968  
   - convent built-1951; school addition  
   completed-1954; new church built 1963



▲ St. Anne's end-of-year school picnic, circa 1946. (l to r): Unknown, John Tansley, Layton Bull, and Ron Fugazi. (r to l): Marty McCann, Charles Bender, and John Patrick.



St. Anne's Church in Lodi, old and new. ▲



▲ St. Anne's School Convent Open House, Sept. 9, 1951. Many nuns from the area attended.





St. Anne's traffic patrol, 1952, posing below the "Madonna of the Stars" plaque. Kneeling: Billie Von Flue, Ron Fugazi, Dave King, Charles Bender. Standing: Unknown, unknown, John Foster, Kenneth Kulhman, unknown, David Schmidt, unknown.



1950; St. Anne's faculty: Sr. Christina, Sr. Evangelist, Sr. Anselm, and Sr. Anne Marie.



The Convent in 1951, Walnut and Pleasant Streets.



PUBLISHED WITH A  
GRANT FROM THE LODI  
ARTS COMMISSION

## THE LODI HISTORIAN

is a quarterly publication of the Lodi Historical Society  
P.O. Box 264, Lodi, CA 95241-0264

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Easter Sunday at St. Anne's, 1960. On the right side in crosswalk, the Ballatore family: Dante, Mary Jane, Dante, Jr. and Lynne.